

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 12, 1975

(SALT TWO-556)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING ON MARCH 12, 1975.

SEMENOV STATEMENT, MARCH 12, 1975

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE NEW
AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS
FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL THE END OF 1985 IS THE AGREED
PROVISION TO THE EFFECT THAT EACH SIDE WILL UNDERTAKE
TO LIMIT DELIVERY VEHICLES FOR STRATEGIC ARMS TO AN
AGGREGATE NUMBER NOT TO EXCEED 2,400 UNITS. THE EXISTING
UNDERSTANDING, RECORDED IN THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 10,
1974, UNAMBIGUOUSLY DETERMINES PRECISELY WHICH STRATEGIC
WEAPON DELIVERY VEHICLES WILL BE COUNTED IN THIS AGGREGATE

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NUMBER.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAWING UP THE UNDERSTANDING ON THIS SCORE IN THE DRAFT TEXT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT IN CLEAR LEGAL FORM, IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO FORMALIZE THE UNDERSTANDING TO THE EFFECT THAT THIS LIMITATION DOES NOT APPLY TO SLBM AND LAND-BASED ICBM LAUNCHERS USED FOR RESEARCH, TESTING OR TRAINING, OR TO ROCKET LAUNCHERS DEPLOYED AT SPACE CENTERS FOR SPACE RESEARCH AND SPACE FLIGHTS.

IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT GENUINE REQUIREMENTS CAUSE THE SIDES TO HAVE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF SLBM AND LAND-BASED ICBM RESEARCH, TEST AND TRAINING LAUNCHERS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS SITUATION ALSO FULLY APPLIES TO THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE TERM UNTIL THE END OF 1985.

THE LAUNCHERS REFERRED TO ARE NOT INTENDED FOR COMBAT OPERATIONS, AND CONSEQUENTLY THERE IS NO REASON TO COUNT THEM IN THE ESTABLISHED AGGREGATE NUMERICAL LEVEL OF STRATEGIC WEAPON DELIVERY VEHICLES.

I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE SAME APPROACH WAS ADOPTED WHEN THE SIDES WERE WORKING OUT THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS OF MAY 26, 1972.

BOTH THE USSR AND THE U.S. CARRY OUT SIZEABLE SPACE RESEARCH PROGRAMS. ACTIVITIES IN THE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION OF OUTER SPACE ARE NOW AN IMPORTANT PART OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND OF SERVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES. NATURALLY, THIS CAUSES THE SIDES TO HAVE NEEDS FOR DEPLOYING AT SPACE CENTERS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF LAUNCHERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLACING IN ORBIT VARIOUS SPACE DEVICES.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PURPOSE OF THESE ROCKET LAUNCHERS, USED FOR SPACE RESEARCH AND SPACE FLIGHTS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY MUST NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATE NUMBER OF STRATEGIC WEAPON DELIVERY VEHICLES.

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GUIDED BY THE CONSIDERATIONS SET FORTH ABOVE, THE SOVIET SIDE PROPOSES THAT A SPECIAL PROVISION ON THIS SCORE BE INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT. IT IS REFLECTED IN ARTICLE XIV OF THE SOVIET DRAFT AGREEMENT, WHICH PROVIDES THAT "THE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED FOR FLE II OF THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT APPLY TO LAND-BASED ICBM LAUNCHERS OR SLBM LAUNCHERS, INTENDED FOR

RESEARCH, TESTING OR TRAINING, OR TO ROCKET LAUNCHERS
DEPLOYD AT SPACE CENTERS FOR SPACE RESEARCH AND SPACE
FLIGHTS."

THE QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED HERE, WHETHER ICBM
AND SLBM TEST AND TRAINING LAUNCHERS SHOULD BE LEFT
UNLIMITED IN ANY WAY.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER AND
THE CONSIDERATIONS EXPRESSED BY THE U.S. SIDE, THE SOVIET
SIDE IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF REACHING
AN UNDERSTANDING ON ICBM AND SLBM TEST AND TRAININGH
LAUNCHERS, SIMILAR TO THAT CONTAINED IN THE AGREED STATE-
MENT INITIALLED ON MAY 26, 1972 IN CONNECTION WITH THE
INTERIM AGREEMENT.

ACCORDINGLY, IT COULD BE PROVIDED THAT DURING THE
TERM OF THE NEW AGREEMENT THE UNDERSTANDING WOULD REMAIN
IN FORCE, WHICH WAS REACHED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
INTERIM AGREEMENT, TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE SHALL BE NO
SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ICBM OR SLBM TEST
AND TRAINING LAUNCHERS, AND THAT CONSTRUCTION OR CONVER-
SION OF ICBM LAUNCHERS AT TEST RANGES SHALL BE UNDER-
TAKEN ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF TESTING AND TRAINING. THESE
PROVISIONS ARE TO BE DRAWN UP IN THE FORM OF AN AGREED
STATEMENT BY THE SIDES.

BOTH AS TO SUBSTANCE AND FORM, SUCH A SOLUTION
TO THE QUESTION WOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING,
RECORDED IN THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 10, 1974,
THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL THE END OF
1985 WILL INCLUDE THE APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS OF THE
INTERIM AGREEMENT OF MAY 26, 1972. IN CONJUNCTION WITH
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ARTICLE XIV OF THE SOVIET DRAFT AGREEMENT THIS WOULD
PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE AFORE-
MENTIONED ICBM AND SLBM LAUNCHERS

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